I claim:

1. A system for restoring a terminal to a default condition, comprising:

a random number generator included in the terminal; and

a file authentication arrangement for authenticating a clear file that includes a random number generated by said random number generator upon downloading of the clear file into the terminal.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file authentication arrangement includes a private key and a corresponding public key clear certificate containing information necessary to authenticate the clear file.

3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said clear certificate contains information necessary to authenticate the clear file, said terminal being arranged to execute a clear instruction upon authentication of said clear file.

4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said clear certificate is a sponsor public key certificate stored in the terminal and corresponding to a signer certificate downloaded with the digitally signed file,

said signer certificate corresponding to a private key used to digitally sign said clear file.

5. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said private key is stored on a smartcard and is only accessible by a secure processor embedded in the smartcard.

6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said sponsor public key certificate is stored in a read only memory in said terminal.

7. A system as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a file signing tool for digitally signing said clear file, said file signing too including a smartcard reader, and wherein all digital signing operations requiring access to said private key are carried out by a secure processor embedded in a smartcard inserted into said smartcard reader.

8. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said smartcard further has stored thereon a signer certificate for authenticating said digital signature, and wherein said clear certificate authenticates said signer certificate.

9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said signer certificate includes a file type field containing a clear string that controls clearing of the terminal in order to restore the terminal to its default status.

10. A method of restoring a terminal to a default condition, comprising the steps of:

generating a random number and storing the random number in a terminal;

placing the random number in a regular file;

digitally signing the regular file to create a digitally signed clear file;

downloading the digitally signed clear file to the terminal;

authenticating the digitally signed clear file by comparing the digital signature with a corresponding value based on the stored random number;

restoring the terminal to a default condition;

generating a new random number and replacing the stored random number with the new random number.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of placing the random number in a regular file comprises the steps of displaying the random number and inputting the random number to a filing signing tool.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of digitally signing the regular file comprises the steps of inserting a smartcard having an embedded secure processor in a smartcard reader connected to the file signing tool, causing the secure processor to access the private key in order to generate the digital signature.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the step of authenticating the digital signature comprises the step of authenticating the digital signature based on a signer public key certificate downloaded into the terminal together with the signed clear file.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of authenticating the digital signature further comprises the step of retrieving a sponsor public key certificate from a read only memory in said terminal and authenticating the signer certificate using the sponsor public key certificate.

15. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of authenticating the digital signature based on the signer public key certificate comprises the steps of comparing a value derived from the digital signature using the signer public key certificate with a value

derived from the stored random number to authenticate said clear file.

16. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of restoring said terminal to a default condition comprises the step of reading a clear string in a file type field of said signer public key certificate.

17. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of restoring said terminal to a default condition comprises the step of deleting a certificate tree from said terminal.